The current claim set, with insertions underlined and deletions bracketed relative to the original issued patent, is as follows:

1. An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said camera comprising:

an image sensor for capturing the images;

a converter stage for converting the images into digital image data;

a memory for storing [a plurality of categories] two or more tag names providing classification of the images [by subject];

control means for selecting one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

a processor [having the capability of] for assigning the [plurality of categories] selected tag names to each of the images captured by the image sensor, wherein each [category] tag name [providing subject] provides classification of [one] two or more captured images; [and]

[control means for selecting one or more categories for the images; and]

means for generating [an output image signal comprising] an image file including [both] the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and [separate category data including the one or more categories selected by the user control, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data] a separate tag name file for each selected tag name;

a removable memory for storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein the removable memory stores two or more tag name files with each tag name file storing two or more image files; and

means responsive to the single computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to the external computer via the cable interface.

2. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the memory is firmware and the [categories] tag names are default categories stored in the firmware.

3. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 2 wherein the [user] control <u>means</u> includes a status display for showing the default categories and the [user] control <u>means</u> selects a particular one of the default categories from those displayed on the status display.

4. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 3 wherein the [user controls] <u>control means</u> includes a first control interface for cycling through the default categories one-by-one and displaying each category individually, and a second control interface for selecting a displayed category.

5. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the [one or more categories] <u>tag names</u> included in the output image data is associated with the digital image data in a distinct file location.

6. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the [one or more categories] <u>tag names</u> included in the output image data is overlaid into the image data.

7. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the camera further comprises a signal port for receiving externally generated <u>user customized tag names</u> [categories], and wherein the processor also stores the externally generated <u>user customized tag names</u> [categories] in the memory and the [user] control <u>means</u> is further capable of selecting a particular one of the externally generated <u>user customized tag names</u> [categories].

8. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the externally generated [categories] <u>tag names</u> are alphanumeric names.

9. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port also receives externally generated text strings for one or more of the [categories] <u>tag names</u>, and wherein the processor also stores the text strings in the memory with the [one or more categories] <u>tag names</u>.

10. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port also receives externally generated graphics images for one or more of the [categories] tag names, and wherein the processor also stores the graphics images in the memory with the [one or more categories] tag names.

11. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 9 wherein the means for generating an [output image signal] image file overlays the text strings into the digital image data.

12. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 10 wherein the means for generating an [output image signal] image file overlays the graphics images into the digital image data.

13. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the memory stores a plurality of default [categories] tag names providing a default classification of the image by a set of codes, and wherein the camera further comprises a signal port for receiving externally generated [categories] tag names, the processor stores the externally generated [categories] tag names in the memory, and the [user] control means preferentially accesses the externally generated [categories] tag names when they are stored in the memory.

14. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 13 wherein the processor includes date and time information with the externally generated [categories] tag names.

15. An electronic imaging system using an electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 in combination with [a host processor] the external computer, wherein the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized [categories] tag names to the signal port.

[16. An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the output image signal is output to the host processor through the signal port and the host processor includes an application program which identifies images from the categories associated with the digital image data in the output image signal and

downloads only the digital image data from one or more selected categories.]

[17. An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects, said camera comprising:

an image sensor for capturing a particular image;

a converter stage for converting the particular image into digital image data;

a signal port for receiving at least one externally generated category providing classification of the image by subject;

a memory for storing each category provided by the signal port;

a processor having the capability of assigning said at least one category stored in the memory to the images captured by the camera, each category providing subject classification of one or more images;

a user control for selecting a particular category for the selected image; and

means for generating an output image signal comprising an image file including both the digital image data corresponding to the particular image and separate category data including the particular category selected by the user control, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data.]

[18. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 17 wherein the externally generated category is an alphanumeric name.]

[19. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 17 wherein the signal port also receives externally a generated text string for the particular category, and wherein the processor also stores the text string in the memory with the particular category.]

[20. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 17 wherein the signal port also receives an externally generated graphics image for the particular category, and wherein the processor also stores the graphics image in the memory with the particular category.]

[21. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for generating an output image signal overlays the text string into the digital image data.]

[22. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for generating an output image signal overlays the graphics image into the digital image data.]

[23. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 17 wherein the memory also stores a plurality of default categories providing a default classification of the image, and wherein the user control preferentially accesses the default categories when the signal port does not receive any externally generated categories.]

[24. An electronic imaging system using an electronic camera as claimed in claim 17 in combination with a host processor, wherein the host processor provides each externally generated category to the signal port.]

[25. An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 24 wherein the output image signal is output to the host processor through the signal port and the host processor includes an application program which identifies images from the particular category associated with the digital image data in the output image signal and downloads only the digital image data from the particular category.]

26. An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port connects to [a] the removable memory [card].

27. An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the signal port connects to [a] the removable memory [card], and the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized tag names [categories] to the signal port by writing the [categories] tag names into the removable memory [card].

28. An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein [a cable connection] the cable interface is provided between the signal port and the [host

processor] external computer, and the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized [categories] tag names over the cable interface to the signal port.

29. An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said camera comprising:

an image sensor for capturing the images;

a converter stage for converting the images into digital image data;

a memory for storing two or more tag names [a plurality of categories] providing classification of the images [by subject];

control means for selecting one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

a processor [having the capability of] for assigning the [plurality of categories] selected tag names to each of the images captured by the image sensor, wherein each [category] tag name [providing subject] provides classification of [one] two or more captured images;

[control means for selecting one or more categories for each the images;]

[a user control for selecting one or more categories for the images before the images are captured by the image sensor];

means for storing the digital image data in image files; [and]

means for [grouping] storing each of the image files [according to the plurality of categories] into a tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein two or more tag name files are stored and each tag name file stores two or more image files; and

means responsive to the computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to the external computer via the cable interface.

30. A method using an electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic

camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said method comprising the steps of:

storing [a plurality of categories] two or more tag names providing classification of the images [by subject];

selecting, by a user control, one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

assigning [at least one of the plurality of categories] the selected tag names to each of the images before the images are captured by the electronic camera, wherein each [category providing subject] tag name provides classification of [one] two or more images;

capturing the images with the electronic camera;

converting the images into digital image data; [and]

generating, by a camera processor, an [output image signal comprising an] image file including [both] the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and a separate tag name file for each selected tag name [separate category data including the one or more categories selected by a control, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data];

storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein the camera stores two or more tag names files with each tag name file storing two or more image files; and

identifying, in response to a computer initiated request, a particular tag name and transferring all of the image files stored in the tag name file corresponding to the identified particular tag name to the external computer via the cable interface.

31. The electronic camera according to claim 1 wherein the control means is a user control.

33. The electronic camera according to claim 29 wherein the control means is a user control.

35. The electronic camera according to claim 1 wherein the tag name is selected on the computer.

36. The electronic camera according to claim 35 wherein the tag names are communicated from the electronic camera to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular tag name is selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable interface.

37. The electronic camera according to claim 29 wherein the tag name is selected on the computer.

38. The electronic camera according to claim 37 wherein the tag names are communicated from the electronic camera to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular tag name is selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable interface.